

the capability to protect the nation's critical infrastructure from intentional acts that would diminish them.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11, the nation's drinking water utilities have been on a heightened state of alert to protect against the potential disruption of water service and biological and chemical contamination of drinking water supplies. Fortunately, before September 11, the water supply community was already at work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal agencies to develop methods and tools to protect water system facilities and consumers. Several drinking water organizations and EPA are currently sponsoring various research and development projects addressing water system security issues. These projects include tools for assessing vulnerabilities, preparations for response and recovery in the event of an attack, understanding the impact of potential biological and chemical agents, and training of water system personnel on security issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Science Committee for supporting my amendment on H.R. 3178. The amendment I offered, which was passed in the Committee is to ensure that the grants awarded under this bill are made to meet the needs of water supply systems of various sizes and are provided to geographically, socially and economically diverse recipients.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is critical in protecting one of our nation's most precious resources—the water supply. As indicated, protecting our water supply is important to the future of this nation and ensuring that our children are protected from any terrorist act. H.R. 3178, I believe has the greatest potential to ensure the safety of our water systems.

AMERICAN YOUTH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the best aspects of our job is the ability to call to the attention of our colleagues, examples of the leadership, maturity, patriotism and values of our American youth. I have inserted in the RECORD a speech from the June 2001 eighth grade graduation address of Michael Robert Glennon. He was the President of the Student Council at Sheridan School in Washington, DC.

Michael is currently a ninth grader at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut.

Parents, Grandparents, Faculty, Students, Special Guests, and Classmates, welcome and thank you for sharing our special day. I am honored to be here representing my fellow graduates to discuss the Sheridan experience and everything that the Sheridan community has meant to us.

First, however, we must be thankful for the love, efforts, and wisdom of our parents who have made possible the privilege of a Sheridan education. Thank you parents.

What do we mean by the Sheridan experience? Sheridan can not be defined simply by what happens on the sports field or in the classroom. It is after school, during recess, and during lunch, when students and teachers interact on a more personal level. That is what makes Sheridan so unique and contrib-

utes to each and every one of our Sheridan experiences.

Community service for those less fortunate than ourselves; the appreciation of nature at the mountain campus that has made us all better stewards of our environment; both of these are hallmarks of the Sheridan experience.

No graduate will soon forget the times we've had or the things we've learned. But more importantly, we won't forget each other. The friendships we have made will stick with us the rest of our lives. It is very rare that you get to have such a close relationship with your fellow classmates at school. Although sometimes it is frustrating to have such a small class and small school, in the end it is uniquely Sheridan because your classmates and school are always there for you in any situation. All of us, including me, can remember when Sheridan was there to support us, to share our joy, or lessen our sorrow. If there is one thing we all take away from Sheridan it is the friendships we have made.

On behalf of my entire class and the entire student body, I would like to thank the faculty and the wonderful staff. All of you have helped us in ways you can not imagine. Thank you especially to all of the teachers who have taught us over the years. Mrs. Lytle in kindergarten, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Curtis in second grade. Mrs. Goldstein in third and fifth grade. Mrs. Pelton, Mrs. Arcuri, Ms. Provonsil, Mr. Walton, Mrs. Cresswell, Mr. Powell, Mrs. Kotler, Mrs. Haggerty, Senorita Fabiola, Mrs. Garcia deMendoza, Mrs. Sacher and Madame. Of course, a special thanks to Ms. Brown and Mr. Helfand for helping us through this year and the high school admissions process. Mr. Plummer, thank you for being a great principal, always smiling, and always having candy.

In conclusion, earlier I mentioned the privilege of a Sheridan education.

However, this privilege demands responsibility from all of us here today. A responsibility to be a friend, a responsibility to help others, and a responsibility to respect our environment.

But most importantly, a responsibility to honor the values and education we were privileged to receive. The Sheridan experience has shaped our lives.

Thank you parents, thank you teachers, thank you classmates, thank you Sheridan.

ON THE DECISION OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY SPENCER ABRAHAM TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE THE FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY ON THE HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION NEAR RICHLAND, WA

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Secretary Abraham's decision to permanently close the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) located on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Washington.

The FFTF is a 400-megawatt sodium cooled nuclear reactor that operated from 1982 to 1992 to test advanced fuels and materials in support of the national Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program. In 1992, this use was terminated. The FFTF then became a facility without a mission. When efforts to identify a long-term mission for the FFTF were un-

successful, the Department of Energy moved the plant into a standby shutdown.

For nearly ten years, this standby mode cost the American taxpayers \$32 million per year, even though there was no functional purpose for maintaining this standby status. I have twice introduced legislation to permanently close this environmentally risky, fiscally wasteful, and technologically unnecessary facility.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear contamination from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation has long threatened the Columbia River and the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians living downstream. The millions of dollars previously spent keeping the FFTF on standby can finally be used to perform the clean up that is essential to ensure environmental safety and clean drinking water for Oregonians.

The Department of Energy has taken an important step today to remedy the environmental problems caused by the Hanford facility. I look forward to working with Secretary Abraham in the coming months and years to ensure that Hanford will no longer pose a health threat to those living in the Columbia River region.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MOORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Thomas Moore of Grand Junction, Colorado and thank him for his service to this country. Thomas began his service to our nation as a sailor, joining the Navy at a young age to travel and experience the world. Early in his service, Thomas participated in a moment that would change the world and bring this nation into war. The moment was Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Thomas was assigned to the battleship USS *Maryland* on that December morning. He was serving as a hospital apprentice, learning the skills to assist surgeons in operating procedures. As his ship, along with other ships, were bombed and torpedoed in the harbor, Thomas was thrust into a position to save men's lives. He spent the next several days assisting the wounded with their battle injuries and doing what he could to ease the shock and pain of U.S. sailors.

As a result of the attack that day, twelve U.S. ships were sunk, beached, or destroyed by Japanese action. The U.S. armed forces suffered heavy casualties losing 2,400 men to enemy action and 1,100 casualties as a result of enemy fire. This nation was given no choice but to declare war on Japan and thus enter World War II. Thomas, like many other servicemen and women, would know the horrors of war for the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor let us also remember the recent victims of our nation's quest for freedom. The attacks on this country September 11 again have plunged us into war. As we fight to redeem our fallen friends let us also pay tribute to the soldiers throughout our nation's history who gave their lives to protect our way of life. It's dedicated men like Thomas